

Menominee Nation News



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Judgement funds to be distributed by end of year

By Yvonne M. Kaquatosh
Menominee Nation News

KESHENA—The Tribe's distribution plan was submitted to both houses of Congress on May 19.

2000, according to information received from Tribal Administrator, Betty Jo Wozniak. "Congress is expected to go on summer break at the end of July and reconvene sometime after Labor Day,"

explained Wozniak. If Congress sticks to this schedule and doesn't recess early, tribal officials anticipate the 60 congressional days to be

See **JUDGEMENT FUNDS** page 4

Tribal protest stalls casino plan

KENOSHA, Wis. (AP)—Attempts by Menominee Indians to build a southeastern Wisconsin gambling casino have been interrupted by objections from another casino-operating tribe.

The U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs has granted the Ho-Chunk Nation permission to submit comments on the proposal for a casino annex at Kenosha's Dairyland Greyhound Park pari-mutuel track.

See **PROTEST** page 2

Gathering of Menominee elders

By Bridget Miller
Menominee Nation News

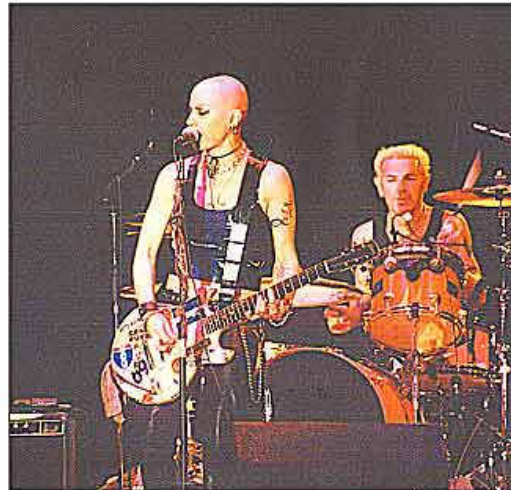
Community elders gathered for the first Menominee Elders Summit that was held at the Menominee High School on June eighth and ninth.

The two day event began with a welcome by Chairman Apesanahkwat who stressed that it was important to remember those who took on the initiative to hold the summit so they (legislators) could hear from the elderly—what they as a government could do for them. A Menominee prayer also was said by Bill Penass.

Tribal Legislator, Lisa Waukau, said the summit was an opportunity to look at the issues and concerns of

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RockFest 2000



Y. Kaquatosh/MNN

Joan Jett and the Blackhearts—Headlining the second annual RockFest at the Menominee Casino was a performer who made an earlier appearance on the Menominee Reservation back in 1988.

Please see story on page 15 and additional photos on page 16, 17.

Fry gets maximum allowed on sexual assault charges

SHAWANO, Wis. (AP)—A former Menominee Indian High School principal has been sentenced to 10 years and nine months in prison for sexually assaulting two Menominee students.

Shawano-Menominee County Circuit Court Judge Earl Schmidt on Friday June 9th, sentenced Mark Fry, 39, to the prison time, despite a plea

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Delabrué may soon walk again



WARMING UP—Pat Delabrué works out regularly at the Menominee Rec Center in Keshena.

By Yvonne Kaquatosh
Menominee Nation News

KESHENA, Wis.—Just two months after his 23rd birthday Patrick Delabrué was seriously injured in an automobile accident that left him paralyzed.

It has been 2 1/2 years now since Pat and his parents, Romaine and Orland, received the fateful news from doctors at Theda Clark Medical Center in Neenah, Wisconsin.

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ASSAULT

agreement in which prosecutors recommended he spend up to a year in the county jail plus 13 years on probation.

Fry was accused of sexually assaulting two 17-year-old boys in his home between Aug. 1, 1995 and Feb. 25, 1996. As part of the plea agreement, Fry pleaded guilty to misdemeanor fourth degree sexual assault of a child and felony second degree sexual assault of an unconscious victim. Fry was originally charged with several felonies, including having sexual intercourse with an unconscious victim, child enticement and exposing a child to harmful material.

In April 1996, the Menominee Nation banished Fry, a non-Indian, from the reservation after he was placed on administrative leave pending an investigation into the sexual assault allegations. He had been principal for three years.

In addition to prison sentence, Schmidt ordered Fry to pay an undetermined amount of restitution, \$440 in court costs and submit a DNA sample. Fry could have received a maximum fine of \$20,000. Schmidt said he would not agree to give Fry probation because the teacher and principal "used his position of trust as a cover for his activities."

"It can't be proven he used a stupefying drug as had been alleged, but there is a consistent pattern of it being alleged in these and other instances," Schmidt said. Catharine White, Shawano-Menominee County assistant district attorney, said she agreed to a plea bargain because she wanted to spare the victims an emotional trial.

"Both victims have clear and long standing problems due to the incidents," White said. "One victim could not bring himself to attend court today and give a statement here because he is undergoing further psychological treatment."

One of the victims, who is now 20, gave a short statement during the hearing and told Schmidt that his life will never be the same. "I just want justice," he said.

Fry's attorney, Stephen Glynn, argued that 13 years on probation would allow Fry to get the treatment he needs. "If he violates, he goes to prison. I can't imagine a greater deterrent," Glynn said. During the hearing last Friday, Fry said he accepted responsibility for his 'inappropriate behavior' and apologized to the victims, their families, society and his friends and family. "I'm sorry judge," he said.

After the sentencing, friends and members of the victims' families sobbed and hugged in the rear of the courtroom.

"It's disturbing that this kind of thing is moving to rural America and our community," Tribal Chairman Apesanahkwat said later. "We let our guard down, but we won't let it happen again. Hopefully, by our community going through this, we may have saved another community and some other young people from suffering at the hands of Mr. Fry or someone else like him," he said.

DELABRUE

that there would be no chance of Pat ever walking again.

Pat reluctantly accepted what the doctors told him and began to rebuild his life. However his mother was determined to not give up hope. "They (parents) saw I was ready to move on, she's (mom) the one with all the hope," he added.

Romaine would accept nothing less than to hear that there was renewed hope that her son may be able to walk again. Since the accident on November 10, 1996, Romaine vowed, "I'll never give up, I'll keep on believing."

Her perseverance paid off two fold when a friend of the family (Marilyn Grignon, who also happens to be a nurse) approached her to tell her about a neurosurgeon who has dedicated his life to helping quads and paraplegics. Believing in miracles and that this man may be able to help her son, Romaine immediately took action. She began to correspond with Dr. Carl C. Kao, M.D., a Taiwanese neurosurgeon, without informing Pat because she didn't want to get his hopes up.

Pat was startled says his mom, when Dr. Kao followed up with a phone call after he had a chance to review Pat's M.R.I.'s. Dr. Kao met with the family in Green Bay on Sunday, May 28th to discuss what he had found. He explained to the family, that the T4 and T5 vertebrae formed a spike and pressed on (Pat's) spinal cord. "There is very little paralyzing Pat," he concluded. Surgery could reverse the paralysis. This was very exciting news for the family.

The surgery, which would cost \$375,000.00 in the United States, can be performed in Ecuador for \$40,000.00 explained Dr. Kao. He jokingly added, "(That's) because you (Pat) get to lay down and I have to stand for 10 hours." Pat has become very independent since the accident on Hwy. M, just a few short miles from his parents home in Neopit. This vibrant young man didn't allow himself to stay down too long. Once he was able to get around in his wheel chair, his vehicle was specially equipped to enable him to drive. Pat began rebuilding his life as well as his physique through weight lifting. He started going to the Menominee Rec Center in Keshena to 'maintain what I have left.'

I was fortunate to interview Pat at a recent workout session. When asked how he felt about the new developments, Pat said, "I keep my hope in check but maintain a level of optimism." At the same time, he admitted, "it's scary and exciting."

While doing warm-ups, Pat made a point to mention a couple of friends who helped him a lot when he began his weight lifting regimen. "David Wynos and Craig White helped me out when I worked out. (They) pushed me further than I thought I could go," said Pat. "They lit a fire under me to keep me going," he added. Pat works out three times a week and can bench press 200 lbs. After his work outs, he goes down to the track in Shawano to further build up his muscles, 6 miles on average; "10 miles on a good day," he says.

Since word has circulated in the community about the upcoming surgery, a lot of people have come forward to offer their assistance to help raise the \$40,000.00 needed for Pat to have the surgery. Pat is undeniably overwhelmed by the amount of community support. "A lot of people (are) excited for me, more than I ever thought," said Pat.

For instance, some of Pat's friends, Devin Wynos and Toni Caldwell, have already begun selling raffle tickets for a TV/VCR combo. The drawing will be held at the Tribal Offices on Friday, June 30th. Another friend, Jimmy Corn, is coordinated a benefit golf tournament that will be held on August 5th. To help the family further, Dar Welk has been putting on weekly 50/50 raffles at the Menominee sawmill. His mother Romaine recently went before the Menominee Tribal Legislature to ask for assistance. The governing body appropriated \$30,000.00 to the family. The actual dollar amount given will be based on what the family has acquired through fund raisers, raffles, etc. and Third Party monies from the Clinic will be looked into as well.

In addition to helping her son Pat, Romaine's youngest son, Tony, 20, is at home as well. At the age of 14, Tony was diagnosed with Medulla Blastoma in the cerebellum. The cancer was at the base of his brainstem. As a result, the left side of his body is damaged and is weaker. Romaine has been going to college part-time since 1997. Both Pat and Tony also attend college with their mom at the College of the Menominee Nation.

In addition to working full time, Romaine also takes care of her mom, Marie Neconish. Marie also lives with the Delabrues. Marie is in fairly good health for her age. At 84, she hopes to live long enough to see her grandson walk again. Romaines husband, E-guy continues to hold down two jobs to support his family. The couple have three other sons, Ronnie-36, Chris-35, and Bob-33. Despite all the hardships that have affected her family, Romaine, the matriarch of the family, remains very optimistic and continues to have faith. Surgery for Pat is scheduled for this November in Ecuador - almost 4 years to the day of the accident, "Full circle," Pat said.

JUDGEMENT FUNDS

up on or about September 15, 2000. The per capita distribution list, which is comprised of four (4) categories, will then be certified by the Menominee Tribal Legislature. The categories are classified as follows: 1. Minor Trust Fund 2. Deceased Members 3. Incarcerated Members who want funds put into Trust. 4. Legally Incompetent. Once the lists are certified, they are sent off to the Bureau of Indian Affairs (B.I.A.) for the purpose of setting up trust accounts.

It has also been determined that the per capita is also subject to Federal debt collection. In other words, if you owe the federal government, unpaid taxes, defaulted student loan, etc. individual per capita funds may be subject to collection by the federal government.

On the same token, the Menominee Tribal Legislature passed a motion recently to have Tribal Attorney Rita Keshena draft an ordinance to encumber per capita payments from the judgement funds of those individuals who are indebted to the Tribe. The same debt collection process will be done locally.

Depending on the actual congressional approval date, tribal officials expect to have checks available to individuals - less any funds owed to the Tribe or the Federal government - within sixty (60) days after the congressional approval. Per capita distribution was previously expected to be disbursed in mid to late June 2000. The per capita disbursement will now be delayed until late November.

As previously mentioned in the Menominee Nation News, the sixty (60) Congressional days means days when both houses are in session at the same time.

PROTEST

The Ho-Chunk Nation, the formal name of Wisconsin's Winnebago tribe, operates western and northern Wisconsin casinos near Wisconsin Dells, Black River Falls and Nekoosa. It also has a bingo parlor in Madison and offered in November to buy the Geneva Lakes Greyhound Track in Delavan about 40 miles west of Kenosha.

Its "appeal filed put everything on hold," said Robert Wessels, a casino project manager and investor in NII-JII Entertainment L.L.C., a Menominee partner in the Kenosha project. It is unclear how the protests by the Ho-Chunk Nation and another tribe, the Potawatomi, will affect the BIA's response to the Menominee hope of placing 89 acres of land in federal trust for commercial gambling.

The project would also need approval of the state. Kenosha voters endorsed it in a referendum in 1998. A 30-day protest period was granted the Ho-Chunk Nation June 7, said Dawn Selwyn,

BIA regional gaming specialist in the Minneapolis office, giving the tribe until about July 7 to comment.

The protest will not harm the casino campaign, Wessels predicted last week. "It's a project that is so well thought out for everybody's benefit that I don't think giving their objections consideration should delay the project," he said.

The Menominee prefer airing everyone's comments now rather than deal with objections later, he said. The Potawatomi, who operate a casino in downtown Milwaukee, have said a gambling hall in Kenosha 35 miles south of Milwaukee could be detrimental to their commerce. They objected in December after the comment period had expired, then sent a protest letter to the BIA in February.

"There are ongoing discussions with the Bureau of Indian Affairs regarding the appropriate role of the Potawatomi in this request," said Tom Krajewski, a public affairs spokesman for the Potawatomi casino. The Kenosha city council and Kenosha County's Board of Supervisors gave tentative approval last year to the Menominee plan.

Menominee tribal chairman Apesanahkwat said in April the tribe was ready to offer commercial gambling in Kenosha as soon as June. It cannot be predicted when operations might begin, Wessels said. Duane Anderson, a leader of a Kenosha antigambling campaign, said government officials told him the BIA would not consider the Menominee petition until it finishes a review of a casino affair in Hudson in western Wisconsin.

The BIA said there will be a 30-day public comment period, Anderson said. George Skibine, director of Indian gambling management for the BIA, said at least a few more months of review could follow that period, Anderson added.

The Kenosha Coalition Against Legalized Gambling Inc. has worked for several months on 'legal strategy' for a possible lawsuit to stop casino gambling in Wisconsin, he said.

ROCKFEST

By Llona Tucker
Menominee Nation News

The Casino's 2nd annual Rockfest which was held on Saturday, June 3rd brought out a huge number of Rock 'n Roll fans.

As the heat from the sun beat down on the fans, so did the electrifying sounds that came from the stage. The music of Blue Oyster Cult, Molly Hatchet, Steppenwolf and Joan Jett kept audience members burning up the atmosphere. Spectators continued to walk in as Blue Oyster Cult began their set. Such bands as Pearl Jam and Smashing Pumpkins based their style of music on the early 80's band, which made a come back in 1998 with their album "Heaven Forbid."

Next to take the stage was the southern rock sounds of Molly Hatchet, the group that made headlines with their mixture of blues, country, gospel and rock and roll music in the early 1970's. The group, who got their distinct name from the famous 17th century axe murderess Hatchet Molly who would behead her lovers, once toured with such music legends as Aerosmith and Bob Seger.

Molly Hatchet recently released Silent Reign of Heroes on CMC International Records, with hits songs like Mississippi Moon Dog, Saddle Tramp, Miss Saturday Night and the title track Silent Reign of Heroes. After their performance the group signed autographs and posed for pictures with their many fans. Bass player Andy McKinney said he was pleasantly surprised with the great turnout of rock and roll fans, which after their performance were ready to rock the house with more great music.

Next up was John Kay and Steppenwolf, who had fans dancing and singing to their famous hits The Pusher, Magic Carpet Ride and Born To Be Wild. Motivated by their loyal fans throughout the world for more than 30 years, the group is still performing and their hit song Born To Be Wild is still hailed as one of the greatest rock songs of all time. The group is still going strong and continues to tour throughout the world with their classic style of music.

The final headliner, Joan Jett and the Blackhearts gave audience members a reason to stand up and cheer. With her raspy voice and recently shaved head, the petite singer belted out songs that made her famous. Rain started to slowly come down, as Jett performed Crimson and Clover, I Love Rock 'N Roll and Do You Wanna Touch Me. Fans did not seem to notice the rain as they cheered louder and raised their arms in satisfaction. Jett fed off the positive vibes, as she sang louder and put on a show to remember.

Upcoming National Acts to perform in the Casino Lounge are Kitty Wells on July 3, Porter

Wagner on July 25 and Ambrosia on August 6. The casino will be holding their annual Menominee Musicfest on Saturday, August 26 with such performers as Wolf River Band, Kentucky Headhunters, Billy Troy, Blackhawk, Pork and the Havana Dudes, and John Michall Montgomery.

ELDER SUMMIT

the elders. She thanked all those who helped put the summit together.

Keynote speaker, Sonny Smart, Ojibwe and professor at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, gave a brief overview on elder abuse. He stated that most of his knowledge gained on elders was sitting, observing and listening to them. Smart stated the following types of elder abuse: physical, social, economic, and psychological. He said there is a lot of economic and psychological abuse that's occurring with the elders in today's dominant society.

"I think we are ahead of the dominant society in how we view and treat our elders because of our (Native Americans) value and respect for them. We may not see the full picture because we are right in there." He added that we need to build upon our values and respect make those even stronger.

Smart said he always remembered what his grandmother, Mary Doud, told him: "If you take good care of your children, they will take good care of you." He said that he taught his boys to always greet their grandmother by saying: "Hello" and "What can I do for you?" "Their grandma really liked that; teaching the value of older people."

He discussed the difference between the dominant society and the society Native Americans live in stating that "we (Native Americans) live in a group process and look at the whole group rather than just the individual. We are group oriented." He shared how both of his grandmothers lived with his family and that his 70-year-old mother lives with him.

Smart explained that the individual process as everyone moving away from everyone - eventually isolating one another. "Isolation is one of the main segments of abuse," added Smart. "We are becoming more nuclear and more like the dominant society and taking on more of the individual process - setting elders away from us."

Smart said "as young parents we need to think and treat our children the way we would like to be treated." The Summit continued with breakout sessions and informational booths and lunch for the elders. Door prizes were also given out on the last day.

Margaret Snow proudly presented a special plaque to the elders from Senator Roger Breske, who is a long time friend that Snow met through the late and well respected elder Hillary

"Sparky" Waukau. The Citation by the Senate plaque will be displayed at CBRF. "I couldn't think of a better place to keep the plaque," stated Snow. Jetta Coon, Menominee Aging Division Director, was asked to take the plaque to CBRF.

Snow thanked all of those who gave donations and stated "the Summit wouldn't have been what it was if it weren't for those who contributed to the event."